

REMARKS

Claims 20, and 23 to 37 of the subject application are currently pending. Of these claims, claims 20 and 23 to 30 have been allowed, whereas claims 31 to 37 have been rejected.

In response to the claim rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the Applicant's arguments presented in the response mailed October 26, 2004 are repeated.

In the Office Action mailed September 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 31-37 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colavin (US 5,666,115) in view of Riffe, et al in (US 4,502,111).

In response, the Applicants have amended claims 31, and 35 to include the limitation "wherein the second shifter has a maximum capacity to shift which is less than the maximum instruction length", or a limitation similar thereto.

In Colavin, the second barrel shift register (13) has a maximum capacity to perform a shift equal to the size of the longest code/instruction likely to present itself. Since in arguing that the combination of Colavin and Riffe renders claim 31 obvious, the Office Action mailed September 23, 2004, relies on Colavin to teach the limitation "wherein the second shifter has a maximum capacity to shift which is less than the maximum instruction length", and by the above argument it has been shown that Colavin does not teach or suggest this limitation, it follows that the combination of Colavin and Riffe cannot render claim 31 obvious.

Given that claims 32-34 depend on claim 31, and claims 36-37 depend on claim 35, it is respectfully submitted that these are also not rendered obvious by the combination of Colavin and Riffe.

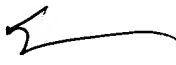
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the remarks set forth herein, all rejections have been overcome. All pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner determines that prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Vani Moodley at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicants hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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